

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On Page 1, lines 5-8, please replace the first paragraph and substitute the following amended paragraph:

This application is a national stage filing of International Application No. PCT/US2003/027605, filed on September 3, 2003, which claims priority-benefit under 35 U.S.C Section 119(e) from U.S. Provisional Application Serial. No. 60/407,723, filed on September 3, 2002, entitled "Blast and Ballistic Protection Systems and Method of Making the Same," the entire disclosures of which is-are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

On Page 5, lines 9-29, please replace the paragraph and substitute the following amended paragraph:

The protection system or structure 1 described above can be manufactured by a variety of methods. For example, the ceramic front sheet 51 is attached by metal to ceramic bonding methods. The ceramic can be added to the structure as small tiles with/without overlapping edges to accommodate thermal expansion mismatch. Ceramic or other suitable materials can be used. For instance, other structural forms and other acceptable materials, such as, but not limited thereto, include carbon matrix composites, fiber reinforced, particulate reinforced, strips, applied layers, rods, spheres, chemically hardening slurries, cubes or other geometric shapes self contained as discussed in PCT International Application No. PCT/US03/23043, entitled "Method for Manufacture of Cellular Materials and Structures for Blast and Impact Mitigation and Resulting Structure," filed on July 23, 2003: (of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety), ~~or otherwise, and chemically hardening slurries.~~ The ceramics can also be attached by many other approaches including adhesive bonding and mechanical attachment (bolts, rivets, etc.), but not limited thereto. Ceramics can be incorporated in the structure 1 or core 21 by slurry and dry powder infiltration methods. Adhesives or brazes can, if desired, be used to bond the ceramic to the metallic structure. All or just a part of the core can be filled with this material. Whereas one cellular metal core system is ideal for retaining ceramic particles and another for blast mitigation, multiple core systems

can be used such that one of the aforementioned is stacked upon another. Multiple cores, face sheets, and sub-cores can be stacked upon one another.